

I do not know whether other *Ornithomyias* may be found in connection with *Lagopus scoticus*, though the point is of some interest. I believe, however, that *O. lagopodis* is not confined to the species (or race) *Lagopus scoticus*, but will be found to occur in Scandinavia on the willow grouse, *L. albus*; there being specimens in the British Museum of Natural History found on the willow grouse in Norway that are, I believe, *O. lagopodis*.

Mrs. Duff Dunbar informs me that the *Ornithomyia lagopodis* may be found freely in larders where freshly-killed grouse has been placed, and that after a short time they leave the birds and may be found on the windows. This fly will bite human beings.

All the British specimens of *O. lagopodis* I have seen come from the northern half of Scotland, and the fly occurs there apparently from June to October; the following being, however, all the records I can give:—

Nethy Bridge, end of June, 1906, by sweeping, one specimen, D. S.; Boat o'Garten, 28.VII.1902, Miss A. Allard, and 30.VII.1902, Dr. Jenkinson, one specimen each; Caithness, Mrs. L. Duff Dunbar, freely in September, rarely in October, 1906; Blair Atholl, in August and September, 1906, A. E. Shipley. In all, 26 specimens; the males in this series being much fewer than the females.

Cambridge: February 9th, 1907.

ON A REMARKABLE NEW EARWIG (*DERMATOPTERA*) FROM PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA.

BY MALCOLM BURR, B.A., F.L.S., F.E.S.

DACNODES, nov. gen.

In familiam Pygidicranidarum locandum; antennæ 35-segmentatæ, segmentis cylindricis; caput depressum; pronotum planum; elytra alæque desunt; mesonotum amplum, planum, humeris haud carinatis; metanotum amplum; pedes compressi; tarsi compressi, segmento primo elongato, secundo brevi, cylindrico; forcipis brachia robusta, valida.

Superficially closely resembles certain *Pygidicrana* in form, size, and uniform, but differs in the total absence of any rudiments of organs of flight. It is perhaps related to *Karschiella* and *Bormansia*, but lacks many of the remarkable characters of those genera, including the thickened antennæ.

DACNODES *WELLMANI*, sp. n.

Statura magna, robusta; colore (in speciminibus siccis) testaceo, atro-

variegato; antennæ graciles, 35-segmentatæ, cylindricæ; pronotum subquadratum, angulis rotundatis; mesonotum amplissimum; metanotum magnum, postice sinuatum; pedes compressi; abdomen valitum, læve; segmentum ultimum dorsale magnum, quadratum; forcipis brachia ♂ basi contigua, valida, triquetra, haud dentata, margine interno prope basin crenato, apicem versus attenuata, mucronata. ♂.

Long. corporis ♂ 23.5—28 mm.

„ forcipis ♂ 4—4.5 mm.

Large and powerful, almost smooth, excessively finely punctulate, shining, with a dense yellowish pubescence and numerous bristles.

Antennæ with 35 segments, all cylindrical; the first is long, the second quite short; the third about twice as long as the second; from 4 to 10 are short, and the rest longer; reddish-brown.

Head broad and flat; smooth, the sutures not very distinct; testaceous above, with a black border all round, and a black median stripe in the anterior part, and a small black spot just inside the eyes, which are large and black; under-surface of the head shining reddish.

Pronotum flat, subquadrate, but somewhat longer than broad, the angles all rounded; pro- and metazona scarcely differentiated; testaceous, with two very irregular black bands and black humeral markings.

Mesonotum very ample, a little longer and distinctly broader than the pronotum, the shoulders bent down over the pleuræ like elytra, but not keeled there and scarcely folded; testaceous, with black irregular markings, of which the main pattern is a pair of black bands, remote anteriorly, converging posteriorly, nearly meeting, and then suddenly diverging near the posterior margin.

Metanotum formed and coloured like the mesonotum, but posteriorly strongly sinuate.

Elytra and *wings* entirely absent.

Prosternum distinctly narrowed posteriorly.

Sternal plates and first few ventral plates all shining reddish-testaceous.

Femora and *tibiæ* compressed, testaceous, sometimes marbled with black.

Abdomen smooth, broadening gently towards the apex; first four segments yellowish, marked with black; then gradually darker, till the apical segments are all black.

Last dorsal segment large, square, very finely punctulate, with a median longitudinal sulcus; posterior border obtusely convex, depressed over the insertion of the forceps, and the outside angles produced to form a small angular projection.

Penultimate ventral segment very large, smooth, and shining; strongly convex in outline, and rounded apically, just showing a corner of the *last ventral segment* at the angles.

Pygidium not visible.

Forceps with the branches very stout, triquetrous, contiguous and broad at the base, not toothed, but strongly crenate on the inner margin near the base; about half way down attenuated, the apices fine and hooked, the right branch bent over the left.

♂. ♀ unknown.

Hab.: PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA: Ochileso (about 250 miles to the interior of Benguella) at about 5000 feet.

Three males of this remarkable insect were very kindly sent to me for identification by Dr. F. C. Wellman, of Benguella, who forwarded them with the accompanying note:—"My attention was called to them by the fact that the blacks fear them and scramble out of their way in the same manner they avoid scorpions, centipedes, &c. They state that the creature 'bites at both ends' and is very poisonous." Mr. Wellman adds that he did not personally see any one bitten by one of them.*

The specimens arrived in alcohol, but even then the contrast between the deep black and the pale testaceous made them very striking in appearance; probably when fresh the bleached testaceous is a bright yellow. Superficially, in size, form and pattern, they resemble some of the larger Asiatic *Pygidicrana*, but a glance shows the entire absence of even rudiments of any organs of flight. They lack the thick antennæ of the *Karschiellide*, and do not resemble *Bormansia* in any respect except their winglessness; I have therefore felt obliged to erect a new genus for them.

Royal Societies' Club:

February 4th, 1907.

"*Heredity and Sexual Dimorphism in Abraxas grossulariata*, var. *varleyata*." a correction.—As is obvious from the wording of the note (Ent. Mo. Mag., January, 1907, p. 12), the first word of the heading should be "*Heredity*," not "*Hereditary*." The word was written rightly in the MS., and was also distinctly corrected in the proof copy, but for some reason the printer insisted on giving the wrong word.—G. T. PORRITT, Huddersfield: February, 1907.

Onthophilus sulcatus, F., in a mole's nest—Since the publication of Dr. Joy's paper on the species of *Coleoptera* found by him inhabiting the nests of moles (Ent. Mo. Mag., vol. xlii, p. 198) I have investigated some of the numerous nests on the Downs in my immediate vicinity. The most interesting species I have yet met with (in addition to *Heterothops nigra*, Kr., and *Quedius vexans*, Epp., which occur in almost every nest) are *Onthophilus sulcatus*, F., and *Aleochara spadicea*, Er.; of the former seven specimens occurred in the foulest nest I have yet unearthed, and three more in another close by. My experience of *Aleochara spadicea*, Er., differs from that of Dr. Joy as regards the number of specimens in a nest; he remarks that he has "never taken more than two in one nest," whereas my tally at present stands 1, 3, 7, 4, 1, and 3. All the nests in this locality appear to be made entirely of grass.—E. C. BEDWELL, Coulsdon, Surrey: February 6th, 1907.

* Cf. Ent. Mo. Mag., vol. xli, p. 223 (1905), as to the dread with which the white inhabitants of the Illawarra district near Sydney, N.S.W., regard the large earwig *Anisotabis colossus*, Bohm.—J. J. W.